
ARENA REPORT

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INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

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Platt High School
Meriden, CT

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Welcome to the final issue of "A.R." to emanate from Altamonte Springs. Also, the final issue of 1989. Shocked by the above title? Hey, desperate times means desperate measures. The PWF pulled the plug on their weekly Orlando shows until after Xmas as the local station pulled the PWF's plug on the TV slot they had. They'll be moving their show to the community channel. Yeah, lots of viewers there. So I scanned my calender to see where my correspondents were this weekend and the best I came up with were Dan Reilly and his two kids, Maureen and Kevin taking in an ICW matinee. (Hey Dan, what's wrong with Bambi or Snow White?) In this issue you'll also find a review of Starcade '89, Elyse Zois's NWA awards (a rebuttal to Evan's WWF awards from last ish.) a report or two and maybe, a letter to Ron. It must be the xmas season as letters and reports have slacked off lately. Hopefully things will pick up in Jan. Are you all listening?

Next issue will be from the weekend of 1/6 either Boston Garden or PWF if they run that Sunday. That issue will have the debut column from Evan Ginzburg titled "A Piece of My Mind". Knowing Evan, that might be scary. His column will run the first issue of each month and I already have his first one and it's great. I'm sure you'll continue to enjoy him. My second issue in Jan will be from the Royal Rumble 1/21 in Orlando which should be interesting as Cheryl & I will be attending with some heavy duty hardcores namely Dave Meltzer & guest, Klon and wife Elaine. (Wait until you get home to have the baby okay Elaine?)

"Arena Report" is published twice per month at the cost of 75¢ each. A number should appear at the top left corner indicating how many issues you have remaining on your subscription. All renewals, letters, and match results may be sent to my Altamonte address until 12/30 when my new address kicks in. That will be Ron Lemieux, 916 Sloewood Ct., Lake Mary, FL 32746. I'll list this later in the issue again. All other editors please make a note of that address change as well. I'd like to thank all for the Christmas cards and greetings we've received. (Hey Zingman, it probably cost you more for postage than the card.) Now let's go up to cold Connecticut where Dan and his loved ones (oh brother) attended this show. Since it's the holiday season and little tykes Maureen & Kevin were there, I'll abandon star grades for this report and replace them with Santas.

-This was a tv taping so I'll drift from my normal format on this report. Since there were many squashes, Dan gave no grades to many of the bouts.

- 1) Little (Mutant) Ninja beat Mighty Moses in a midget match. Moses looks about 50. I thought he was older than that. He was 50 when he parted the Red Sea. Worst match of Dan's lifetime.
- 2) Rochester Roadblock over Al Phillips. Rochester comes to the ring with one of those construction barricades.
- 3) Phil Apollo beat Broadway Sonny Blaze with the scopian. Blaze is radio

host John Arezzi's partner. $\frac{1}{4}$ Santa

- 4) Mr. Pogo beat Brian Fortune. Another 50 year old man. Hey, at least the senior citizens of wrestling will have an alternative if the AWA folds.
- 5) Robby Ellis downed the Pink Assassin. Ellis is Junior Heavy champ. He also owns an art gallery in Portland, ME. Pink Ass does a gay act that wears thin.
- 6) Tom Prichard beat Jose Cara with a suplex. Before his match, Dr. Tom did an interview and he manages Tom Brandi now who was out on crutches.
- 7) Vic Steamboat beat Chris Michaels. No relation to Shaun.
- 8) The Undertakers over Ray Odyssey & Eric Sbraccia in 9:30 as Vince Apollo ran in when the Takers were beating on Odyssey. Ray is a young Bret Hart just waiting to happen. Two Santas.

END OF FIRST HOUR

- 1) Pink Assassin beat Sonny Blaze. Dan's daughter Maureen exclaimed, "They ran out of guys." upon seeing someone wrestle for the second time.
- 2) Undertakers over Jose Cara & Al Phillips. Takers face paint was falling off from their previous bout. Someone stole their makeup kit.
- 3) Dynamic Duo- Phil Apollo & Eric Sbraccia beat Russian Assassins. Don't think the duo ripped off the Dudes. Apollo & Eric were known as the Duo for sometime. On the other hand, the Russian Asses are pretty original.
- 4) Mr. Pogo beat Tony Diamond. No relation to Neil. Oh, sorry, distant cousin.
- 5) DQ Madison downed Brian Fortune. No idea who Madison is.
- 6) Tom Prichard pinned Chris Michaels.
- 7) Tony Atlas beat Bialo the Giant in 3:10. Atlas is ICW champion.
- 8) DQ Madison won a battle Royal in 4:30. Everyone was jumping out of the ring and all the fans were running for the gate to get out of the gym. Atlas jumped Madison after he won but by that time there were only 150 people left.

NOTES: Crowd was 450 which isn't bad considering Conn. got 8 inches of snow dumped on them that morning... Bob Orton was a no show... No Paul E. in sight... They were selling 8x10 pics and Dan said they could have done well with an autograph party. But Tony Atlas can't write so that takes care of that... Thanks to Dan for braving the weather for this drab card. Hopefully, I will not be this desperate again. If this were a regular card it wouldn't have been so bad. (Sorry S.D. for giving your fave group all this ribbing.)

Ramblings

The handwriting is on the wall for the Dynamic Dudes. Shane Douglas wrestled Jim Cornette at the recent tapings in Peoria and it ended in a
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Starcade '89 Review

-First, an explanation on the scoring is necessary. There was 20 points awarded for a pin or submission. Fifteen for a count out victory, ten for a disqualification win, and five points for a draw.

1) The Steiners beat Doom in 12:22 on a count out as Rick had clotheslined Nitron on the outside and all four brawled until Rick jumped in to beat the count. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 2) Lex Luger beat Sting in 11:24 when they tumbled back in the ring (looked terrible) and Lex used the ropes for the pin. 20 points for Luger. Great spots in the beginning. ** $\frac{1}{4}$ 3) Road Warriors beat Doom in 8:29 as Reed went for a piledriver on Animal but Hawk came off the top with a clothesline for the win. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 4) Ric Flair handed the Great Muta his first defeat in 1:54 as Muta came off with the moonsault but Flair lifted his knees. He then small packaged the "Pearl". Buzz Sawyer & Dragon Master had charged the ring earlier but were intercepted by the Andersons. *** Short but good stuff. Flair- 20 points. 5) Steiners gave the Roadies a rare pinfall loss at 7:27. They did the double pin bit which is cheap but I guess you can't ask the Roadies to do a clean job. Steiners- 35 pts. ** 6) Sting pinned Great Muta at 8:29. Muta was on the top rope but Stinger dropkicked him. He then went for a superplex and pin. ** $\frac{3}{4}$ 7) Samoans beat Doom at 8:20 when Fatu and Simmons collided but Humperdink pushed Fatu on top for the pin. $\frac{1}{2}$ * for natives. Samoans- 20 pts. 8) Ric Flair and Lex Luger went to a fifteen minute draw at 17:07. A good match but I was getting tired of the concept of this show. ** Flair- 25 pts. Luger- 25 pts. 9) Samoans downed Steiners in 14:01 when Scott backdropped Fatu over the top rope for the DQ even though the ref missed it. * $\frac{1}{2}$ Samoans- 30 pts. 10) Lex Luger beat Muta via DQ as Muta blew the mist. Luger was selling the hurt leg from his previous bout with Flair when Ric had him in the figure four. ** Luger-35 pts. 11) Road Warriors beat Samoans to become the iron team in 5:46 as Hawk hit Tonga with a clothesline from the top rope. Lots of messed up moves here. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 12) Sting upset Ric Flair in 15:52 when Ric went for the figure four and Sting wrapped him up in a package. *** $\frac{3}{4}$ Great surprise as Sting became the Iron Man. Afterwards, the Andersons came in and it looked like Arn was going to clock Sting but instead he raised his hand and symbolized that Sting was the fourth Horseman. I can see a Flair and Anderson turn on the Stinger down the road. NOTES: Fib of the night; Jim Cornette saying that Samoans were a last minute replacement as Sid Vicious had just suffered an injury..... Steiners should have been allowed to pin Doom but that would have messed up their points. Speaking of Doom, would you say they are now buried. They should have had Woman fire them on the spot after their loss to the Savages... Did the NWA use a Titan timekeeper. Their time was always two minutes later than mine... Saw "Arena Reporter" Bruce Grummert going crazy during Flair-Luger match sitting fifth row leading the "Luger Sucks" chants... Tommy Young, conspicuous by his absence got injured during that Rotunda-Rich match on TBS. Took a "Hot Shot" on the top rope and hurt his windpipe. Funny, I didn't see Eddie Gilbert around the ring... One move I'm tiring of is clotheslines. They've taken the place of punches. It's ridiculous. Pretty soon Lee Scott will be doing them... If it wasn't for the Flair-Sting match and surprise ending, I would have voted this show a thumbs down. The work rate was okay but I hated this concept and I was tiring of seeing the same guys. Give me a nine match card with three or four title matches any day... Hated the Steiners coming in to congratulate the Roadies... How many "regular" fans out there could keep track of the point totals and scoring. I'm talking casual fans here. I hope the Sting-Flair match made Ric realize it's time to step aside and let the young lions take over. The majority of the fans were cheering Sting. The NWA in 1990 should be interesting.

Elyse Zois's 1989 NWA Awards

- I've got Liz's looks and Damien's personality award- Woman
- They told me I'd make a real slick manager award- Teddy Long
- If George Steele could do it, why not me? award- Norman the Lunatic
- Better keep him happy or he'll do jobs for the Ultimate Warrior .. award- Sting
- Well of course it's physical, they're not playing chess award-Jim Ross
- Better than Nytol award- Gordon Solie
- We're glad they finally replaced that belt award- Steiners
- We don't need gimmicks because "We Wrestle" award- Dynamic Dudes
- How can anyone so awesome be so clumsy award- Sid Vicious
- What foreign stereotypes? award- SST and New Zealand Militia
- I was once a world champion but that doesn't mean I can wrestle award- Tommy Rich
- He's turned so many times, he must have been born on a ferris wheel award- Steve Williams
- I don't have to work hard because Japanese wrestlers are the best award- Great Muta
- The fans love us, so we'll turn heel award- Jim Cornette & Midnight Express
- I know as many holds as Hulk Hogan and I have more hair award-Lex Luger
- If we hide under these masks, no one will know what losers we are award- Doom
- I don't care how dumb I sound as long as they pay me award- Terry Funk
- I used to be the WWF champion but it's much more fun being a jobber in the NWA award- Iron Sheik

(continued from page 2)

pull apart. When Shane got back to the dressing room he started yelling at Jim Herd because he wasn't allowed to pin Corny. Ric Flair intervened and told Shane that if he wasn't happy he should have come to him. Add this with the return of none other than the Rock N' Roll Express next month and the Dudes may be history. Why they want to bring back Morton & Gibson is beyond me. Especially if its to feud with the Midnights again. Sure, great matches but its so old the ring will grow mold... Samu of the SST is no longer due to "personal" problems. So now we have Fatu and Tonga Kid as the new Wild Samoans. Tonga looks like he has gained 100 pounds. Wonder how long before he comes up with "personal" problems.... I was watching a tape of ESPN's Sportscenter Wed. afternoon and when I shut the tape off, lo and behold, there was a new AWA tape on. How many people besides the "Legends of World Class" diehards even caught the thing. I don't blame ESPN if they cancel the AWA but that network misses the boat on wrestling. They don't realize they could have a gem with wrestling programming... If Dusty wins out in his series with Randy Savage, what will he be called? Why of course; the American King.... In talking with one of the service people at my new cable company, I asked them how they do on wrestling PPVs. She told me it's their big time money maker and they consistantly top the boxing PPVs in Central Florida... Given more exposure on the mic, Arn Anderson could be considered for interview of the year. His recent ones have been excellant.... Look for a feud to start up between Sting and Cactus Jack. Speaking of the Cactus man, did Rick Steiner give him a rude welcome on TBS or what. Leveled him big time with clotheslines and stiff slaps to the face... Wonder what John Tatum thinks of his good friend Jack Victory being managed by a midget... It's getting real sad when Eddie Gilbert is doing jobs for Kevin Sullivan.... Tanaka and Diamond had a good match this Sat.night on ESPN. Diamond could make it somewhere. Tanaka too small.

Jorge Gonzales the 7-6 Argentine reportedly has signed a three year contract with TBS. Gee, great money especially if he can never wrestle a lick... D T L of PO Box 518, Byron, CA 94514 is marketing some video tapes. "Golden Oldies" which includes Ed Carpentier, Gorgeous George, and many other stars from the 50's and 60's goes for \$29.95. Three volumes of ladies matches including Misty Blue, Kat Leroux, Candi Devine and many others go for \$39.95 or \$99.95 for all three... Also, a tape of amateur lady matches that gets real vicious (Sounds like something Zinger and Levine would be interested in.) that sells for \$23.95. Order now.

Your Fearless Editor's 1989 Year End Awards

Wrestler of the Year- (Based on ability) Ricky Steamboat- He had a good match with everyone he wrestled including Butch Reed and Iron Sheik.
Tag Team of the Year- The Rockers
Best Babyface- Who else, Hogan
Best Heel- Terry Funk
Feud of the Year- Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat with Funk- Flair right below it.
Most Improved- Lex Luger
Most Un-improved- Tie, anyone in the WWF excluding 5 or 6 guys.
Most obnoxious- Brutus Beefcake
Best Interview- Jerry Lawler, the guy can carry a five minute interview on World Class and not make it boring.
Most Charismatic- Ultimate Warrior
Best Technical Wrestler- Rick Steamboat
Best Brawler- Terry Funk
Most Overated- Ultimate Warrior
Most Underated- Cactus Jack Manson, although now that he's in the big time, people will stand up and take notice.
Best Promotion- NWA
Best TV Show- Power Hour
Manager of the Year- Bobby Heenan
My Favorite Wrestler- Rick Steiner
My Most Hated Wrestler- Tie. Beefcake & Hacksnore Duggan. The later being sad since I enjoyed him in the UWF.
Best Wrestling Move- Scott Steiner's "Frankensteiner"
Worst Wrestler- Andre the Giant
Worst Tag Team- Bushwhackers
Promoter of the Year- Akira Maeda, I usually don't go overseas for any awarda but on this one, I have to. Can you imagine how his group would bomb here in the U.S. I need to talk to some Japanese fans.

Correspondent Report

Springfield Civic Center
Correspondent: Dan Reilly

Springfield, MA

December 9, 1988

1) Mark Young defeated Conquistador #1 in 10:55. Dud 2) Dino Bravo pinned Tito Santana. Loys of bear hugs and good dropkicks from Chico. Not bad.
* 3) Bushwhackers downed the Bolsheviks in 8:25. Mostly comedy of course but entertaining none the less. Boris took off his loaded boot but nailed Slick Nic and Volkoff got pinned. *½ 4) Dusty Rhodes beat Big Boss Man in a ball and chain match at 8:30. Slick tried to slip the ball and chain into Bubba but it backfired and Rhodes knocked out the Cobb County toughie. He then tied it to Boss Man to further the humiliation. *** 5) Greg Valentine pinned Ronnie Garvin in 14:55 as Garvin took Greg's ankle brace off but while he was waving it to the crowd, Greg cradled him for the win. **½ 6) The Genius downed Sam Houston in 6:30. He used the

flying somersault for the win. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 7) Curt Hennig beat Hulk Hogan via count out in 16:10. Lots of heat with a major fight breaking out in the stands and the whole crowd turning to watch the "real" fight. End saw Hogan chase Poffo outside but Hennig pearl harbored Hulk into the ringpost where he got counted out. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ Att: 7,600

Final Word

Thanks to Dan & Elyse for their help this issue. Looking over my calender, it seems that we'll back to normal with reports as it'll be a busy few weeks. A note to all new subscribers, if you attend a live show, send me the results with a brief rundown for each match. You don't have to be an expert to get into "Arena Report". None of us are. You subscribers make this publication happen and thanks to you, it works for all of us, the United... Oh, I knew it sounded familair. Don't forget next issue we'll have the debut of Evan Ginzburg's column and I'm currently negotiating with the Sybil of wrestling letter writers on doing a monthly column as well.

Until 1/7, have a safe a happy holiday season. Remember, don't drink and drive. A message provided by the family of "Arena Report". Brother, I have to get out of here.

See ya,

Ron

NEW ADDRESS: -----
= 916 Sloewood Ct. =
= Lake Mary, FL 32746 =

(effective 1/2)

P.S. I tried to make the ICW report interesting and through no fault of Dan's but you can only do so much with dumpster like material.